

2003 - 2005

Wisconsin
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Board

BIENNIAL REPORT

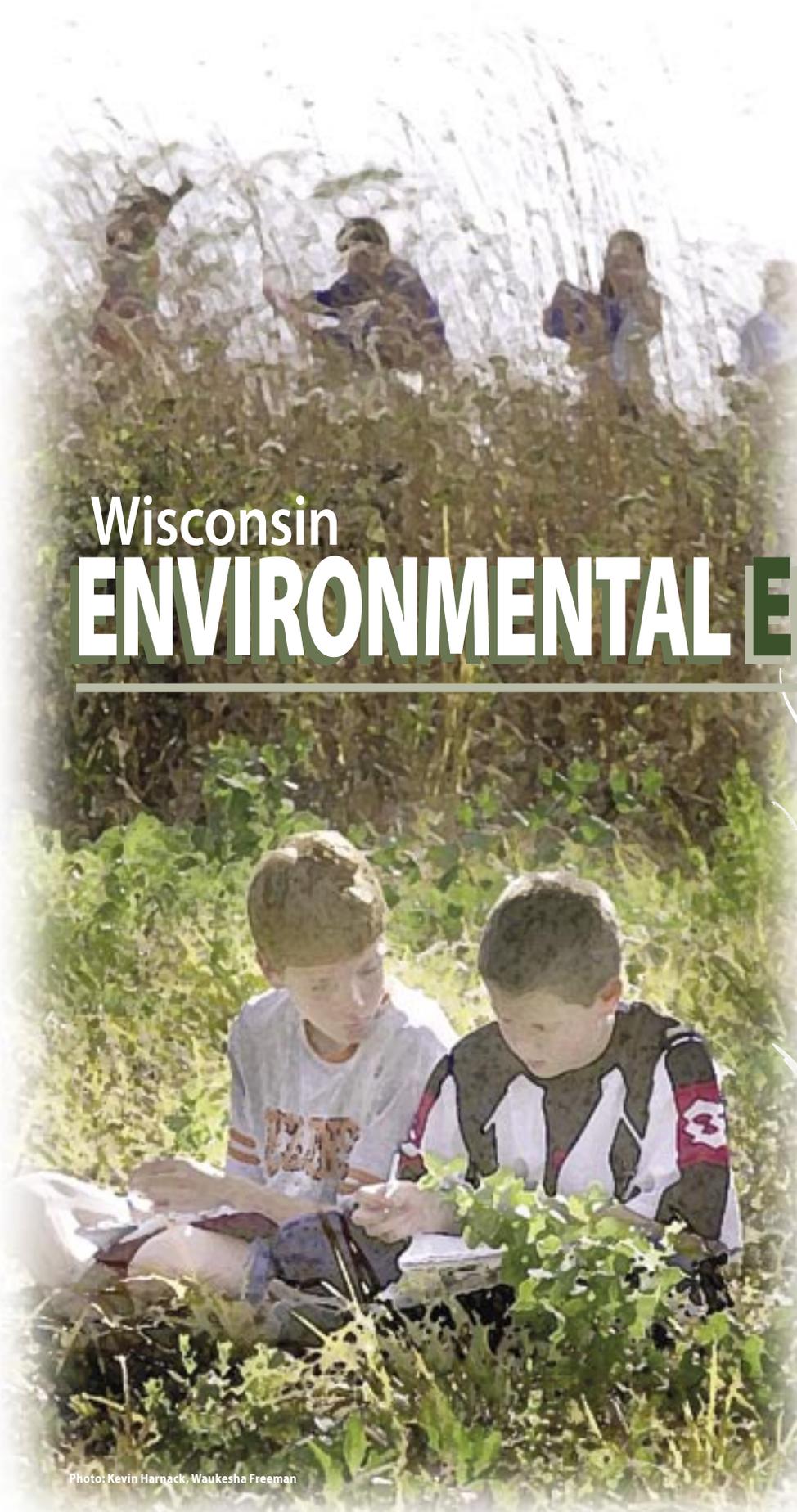


Photo: Kevin Harnack, Waukesha Freeman

A STATE BOARD CREATED TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY

September 2005

Between 2003 and 2005 the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board continued to serve as a leader in environmental education, befitting of a board in the home state of Gaylord Nelson.

As we mourn his passing, we take heart in and celebrate the legacy Senator Gaylord Nelson provided to our state and nation. As founder of Earth Day in 1970, Nelson spoke eloquently of the need to value and protect the natural environment. Throughout his years in government, at the state and then national level, Senator Nelson demonstrated exceptional commitment to the cause of conservation and served as a trailblazer in environmental protection.



For the past five years the WEEB has been guided by its strategic plan, *EE 2005: A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin*. It is now time for Board members and the environmental education community to look ahead to the next five years. We must take guidance from successes and challenges of the past.

The loss of state GPR funds to support general education grants continues to reduce both the grant amount and overall number of grants being awarded in this category. The \$200,000 previously received on an annual basis made it possible to fund innovative grants across the state.

The 2003-2005 biennial budget resulted in the loss of Focus on Energy funds which supported a \$200,000 WEEB energy education grants program. Continued diversion of Focus on Energy funds in the 2005-2007 biennial budget means the WEEB's energy education grant program will not yet be reinstated.

On the positive side, we have seen tremendous growth in the use of forestry grant funds. These funds, appropriated annually from the segregated fees of the forestry account of the conservation fund, support many outstanding forestry education programs. These grant dollars are funding significant efforts toward the development and implementation of education plans on school forest properties around the state.

The WEEB finds itself looking ahead to the challenge Senator Nelson saw for all humankind on Earth Day, 1970, when he spoke these words: "The battle to restore a proper relationship between man and his environment, between humans and other living creatures, will require a long sustained, moral, ethical and financial commitment far beyond any commitment ever made by any society in history."

The WEEB will continue to provide opportunities for Wisconsin residents to realize Senator Nelson's dreams.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Marinac". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pat Marinac, Chairperson



August 25, 2005

Natural resources are a fundamental part of who we are in Wisconsin, and we owe it to future generations to preserve them. Not only do our kids need a clean and healthy environment to live in now, they'll also inherit what

we leave behind, and become responsible for sustaining it. That's why it's so important to develop a sense of stewardship and responsibility in our children, and involve them in activities that allow them to experience the outdoors.

The work of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board helps children and students understand these important concepts, experience the wonders of nature, and learn how to safeguard our natural resources. The board's leadership in environmental education policy, and the financial assistance it gives schools and other organizations help our kids learn about protecting and conserving Wisconsin's water, keeping our air clean, sustainably managing our forests, using energy wisely, and maintaining habitat for fish and wildlife.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doyle".

-Governor Jim Doyle



Providing educational opportunities to Wisconsin's government officials, business leaders, students, and citizens has always been a top priority for the UW System and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board. It is extremely important for Wisconsin's future to educate our state's residents about the value of conserving our natural resources.

WEEB is one of the most credible organizations through which the public can learn about the importance of preserving Wisconsin's natural areas, and deserves all the support, both economic and moral, that can be provided to it. The high-quality service WEEB performs for the citizens of Wisconsin is not something that can be done without, and the UW System fully supports restoring the general WEEB grant program budget to historical levels.

Kevin Reilly
President University of Wisconsin System



Nothing captivates the imagination more than descriptions of Wisconsin's out-of-doors: crystal clear flowing waters, clean air, pristine forests, beautiful parks, sunsets, rolling hills, boating, skiing and so much more. Even our cities and expressways exude the aura of 'Wisconsin Clean and Beautiful.' The parks, recreation areas and bike paths are urban treasures that are the envy of the world.

My wife and I are proud to be able to raise our family in Wisconsin. We are ever so proud, also, of the vision and foresight of so many of the world's best known environmental advocates: Aldo Leopold, Governor Nelson and so many more. Their legacy is a compelling sense of stewardship. They taught us that we can not assume that because our landscape is beautiful that it will so remain without conscious engagement.

Let me encourage every resident, corporation, organization, educator and policy-maker to support, appreciate, and engage with WEEB and all that it represents. Hats off to those who value, as I do, the work of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and the potential it holds through environmental leadership development, competitive grants programs, and balanced advocacy for our natural environment.

Daniel Clancy
President Wisconsin Technical College System



The goal of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is to protect and preserve Wisconsin's rich natural resources for future generations. To accomplish this goal, Wisconsin needs an educated citizenry that is both knowledgeable and willing to take action on behalf of the environment. Education is the tool that gives our students, teachers and other citizens the skills to accomplish this task. It is critical that Wisconsin look ahead

to protect our environment while we address past problems, such as contaminated land and water and fragmented landscapes. To do that successfully, both youth and adults need to be knowledgeable about issues like land use, shoreland protection, sustainable forestry, wildlife health, and air quality.

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board provides the leadership and resources to help educate citizens of all ages about the environment. Through WEEB grants, hundreds of schools and organizations have received funding and guidance to complete both state and local environmental education programs. On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, I am proud to serve on the board and strongly support the various programs that WEEB provides.

Scott Hassett
Secretary Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



We are working through our New Wisconsin Promise to help schools build exciting, challenging programs that are creative and diverse in the way we teach children. We must ensure a quality education for every child by raising the achievement of all students and closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, and their peers. Environmental literacy programs promoted by the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB)

are tailored toward closing the achievement gap. While learning about the environment through WEEB programs, students often perform better because they feel empowered, are engaged in their own learning, and challenged to make decisions about the environment.

In Wisconsin, we know how important it is for all students to become environmentally literate. Environmental literacy is fundamental to the future well-being of our state. Environmental literacy is grounded in our state's history, a lasting legacy of Gaylord Nelson's life work, where environmental stewardship is important to every citizen and begins with the implementation of Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education. The partnership and collaboration of the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board promotes a quality environmental education for every child in Wisconsin.

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Board Members

Alicia Adams Agriculture Platteville	2005-	Scott Hassett Department of Natural Resources Madison	2003-	Cathy Nordine Forestry Land O' Lakes	2002-2005
Janet Brandt Energy Industry Madison	2002-	Mark Ishihara Business and Industry Germantown	2001-2004	Vance Rayburn Department of Natural Resources Designee Madison	2004-
Brian Burke Legislative Representative, State Senate Milwaukee	1995-2003	DuWayne Johnsrud Legislative Representative, State Assembly Eastman	2003-2005	Kevin Reilly University of Wisconsin-System Madison	2004-
Elizabeth Burmaster Department of Public Instruction Madison	2001-	Neal Kedzie Legislative Representative, State Assembly Legislative Representative, State Senate Elkhorn	1999-2003 2003-	Fred Risser Legislative Representative, State Senate Madison	2003-
Bill Buckley Environmental Organizations Marshfield	1997-2003	Rick Koziel Nature Centers/ Museums/Zoos Fall Creek	1996-2004	Steve Sandstrom Higher Education Ashland	2005-
Richard Carpenter Wisconsin Technical College System Madison	2001-2004	Mike Krysiak Business & Industry Green Bay	2004-	Al Stenstrup Department of Natural Resources Designee Madison	1999-2003
Dan Clancy Wisconsin Technical College System Madison	2004-	Robert Leege Agriculture Madison	2003-2004	David Wisnefske Environmental Organizations Monroe	2004-
Krista Connors James Higher Education Menomonie	2002-2005	Shelley Lee Department of Public Instruction Designee Madison	1999-	Ginny Carlton Administrative Liaison	
Donald Friske Legislative Representative, State Assembly Merrill	2005-	Katharine Lyall University of Wisconsin System Madison	1990-2004	Randy Champeau WCEE Liaison	
Sabrina Gentile Agriculture Madison	2000-2003	Pat Marinac Environmental Educators Iola	1998-		
Jim Gibson Wisconsin Technical College System Designee Madison	2000-	Gerry Mich Forestry Appleton	2005-		
Gail Gilson-Pierce Nature Centers/Museums/Zoos Eagle River	2004-	Mark Miller Legislative Representative, State Assembly Monona	2000-2005		
Robin Harris University of Wisconsin System Designee Madison	1996-	Louis Molepske Legislative Representative, State Assembly Stevens Point	2005-		
Sheila Harsdorf Legislative Representative, State Senate River Falls	2001-2003	William Neuhaus Labor Kenosha	1990-		



Who We Are

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is made up of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources; the Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction; the President of the University of Wisconsin System; the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System; one majority and one minority party senator and one majority and one minority party representative; and nine members representing environmental educators, conservation and environmental organizations, business and industry, agriculture, labor, faculty of public and private institutions of higher education, energy industry, forestry, and nature centers and zoos.

The WEEB employs one part-time staff person (0.5 FTE on GPR funds with additional time as contracts allow). The employee is supervised via the administrative structure of the College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point.

Our Mission

To provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, workplaces, and communities.

Our primary duties established by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299 are to:

- Identify needs and establish priorities for environmental education in Wisconsin.
- Create and maintain a competitive grants program that is in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Board through continual appraisal and evaluation.
- Be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program.

Our four central purposes are to:

- Provide positive leadership, advocacy and policy making in the area of environmental literacy and education.
- Support the development of local leaders and their fellow citizens to become environmentally aware and concerned enough to act positively on environmental issues.
- Advocate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary environmentally-based curricula at all levels of the educational system.
- Support the continuing professional development of staff working at all levels of formal or informal education to enable them to accomplish needed environmental education goals.





The Status of Environmental Education in Wisconsin

Current information on the status of environmental education in Wisconsin is limited. The elimination of the Environmental Education Consultant position at the Department of Public Instruction in April 1994 has significantly impacted the Board's ability to report on curriculum development, dissemination and implementation programs; teacher training programs; and student literacy levels. The WEEB itself does not have the resources to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the status of environmental education in the State. Episodic data can be gathered via a review of the grantee's quarterly and final reports, site review data forms, and the "Need Statements" included within the grant proposals.

The WEEB's primary avenue for promoting environmental education is through grants to local, regional, and statewide projects. All the grants awarded within the timeframe of this biennial report (2003-2005) are highlighted within the "Grant Program" section of this document. A few projects are highlighted within this portion of the report as documentation of the WEEB's efforts to achieve its four central purposes.

Central Purpose One

Leadership, Advocacy and Policy Making

Since its inception, the Board has been a very active, hands-on working group. In addition to operating an environmental grants program, the Board is recognized as a consensus-building group on environmental education issues. The unique make-up and mission of the Board position it to provide needed leadership to environmental education while recognizing the importance of building

common purpose and direction among diverse stakeholders.

The Board's strategy for leadership, advocacy and policy making has included strategic planning, a series of forums to move initiatives forward, expansion of the grant program and enhanced networking and communication.

Strategic Planning

For the past five years, *EE 2005: A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin* has guided the WEEB and other entities with an interest in environmental education. The plan represented the thinking and input of hundreds of stakeholders across Wisconsin and provided a foundation for local, regional, and statewide policy and programming initiatives.

EE 2005 identifies six major priorities. They are:

- Support the Implementation of EE in Schools
- Develop Leadership in Environmental Education
- Expand Non-Formal Environmental Education
- Conduct Environmental Literacy Assessment
- Communicate the Environmental Education Message
- Expand Private Sector Funding for Environmental Education

Copies of the plan are available from the WEEB office or it may be viewed on the WEEB website.

The plan was an ambitious one. While progress toward achieving the objectives/outcomes within it has been made, work continues.

Objectives within the “Support the Implementation of Environmental Education in Schools” portion of the WEEB’s *EE 2005* strategic plan included:

- Increase cooperation between agencies involved in environmental education.
- Promote safe environmental practices in classrooms and the field (e.g., safe handling of mercury, safe handling of art supplies, awareness of environmental hazards, i.e., ticks, poison ivy, and lead paint.)
- Encourage environmentally/energy ‘friendly’ school buildings and grounds.”

The WEEB worked to achieve these objectives with a grant to the Natural Resources Foundation.



**Natural Resources Foundation
Green Schools
\$4,511**

Funds were used to print and distribute a Green School poster, provide workshops targeted to school staff, and expand a portion of the Department of Natural Resource’s website to provide resources for teachers, recognition of schools participating in the Green Schools program and ideas to get other schools involved.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2004, the Department of Public Instruction and Department of Natural Resources joined together to expand the Green Schools program and officially launch the Green & Healthy Schools program. This expanded program carried the work of the grant further by developing a formal three step process for becoming a Green and Healthy School: commitment, discovery and inventory, and action and implementation. On Earth Day 2004 three schools had completed the first step. As of May 13, 2005, thirty-two schools had completed the first step, eight had completed the second, and four had completed all three steps and now have the privilege of flying a Green and Healthy School banner at their site.

As hoped, the landscape has changed since the adoption of *EE 2005*. It is time to again assess where we are and where we wish to be. The WEEB has initiated a strategic

planning process to solicit input and set the direction for environmental education through 2010. If interested in contributing to this effort, please contact the WEEB office.

K-12 Water Education Forum

A day long meeting in April 2003 gathered about 25 water educators from across the state to determine the needs and future directions of water education. The meeting was co-sponsored by the WEEB, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters and the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education. Seventeen agencies were represented. Agenda items included:

- A review of what is currently happening in Wisconsin K-12 water education;
- Examples of comprehensive approaches to Wisconsin environmental education (e.g., forestry and energy);
- Analysis of strategies related to a comprehensive K-12 Water Resources Education Program for Wisconsin.

Participants at the meeting concluded “There is no concerted effort to provide K-12 water resource education in the state. Ultimately, this lack of a solid statewide education effort distracts from the need to establish the sustainability of our precious water resources. The consensus of the participants is that a comprehensive K-12 water education program should be developed in Wisconsin. A consistent long-term funding source should be identified to support the effort.”

Further details of the day may be found in a report entitled *Review and Recommendations for K-12 Water Education Programs in Wisconsin*.

Environmental Education Forum

On December 29, 2003 the WEEB was notified that due to recent budget cuts in the Department of Natural Resources, production of *EE News* would be suspended after the 2003-04 school year. *EE News* was a quarterly print publication that enabled environmental educators across the state to network with one another. In response to this announcement, the WEEB worked with others that valued the newsletter as a clearinghouse for staying in touch with the environmental education community to investigate and initiate other communication mechanisms.

On December 6, 2004 an Environmental Education Forum was held at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point. WEEB was one of the sponsoring organizations. The goals of the EE Forum were to develop connections among EE practitioners, improve statewide communication structures and tools, and engage both new and continuing EE leaders in Wisconsin.



Approximately 85 environmental educators from over 50 organizations in 36 different counties participated in the event. The outcome was the development of five action groups to follow through on ideas generated and developed during the Forum. An on-line discussion mechanism for each action group was created. Action groups included:

- Consortium
- Political Advocacy
- Regional Networks
- Strategic Planning
- Website

It is hoped a preliminary website will be launched in the summer of 2006.

Expanded Grant Program: Creation of School Forest Category

Recognizing the tremendous needs at school forest sites, the WEEB initiated the school forest grant category during the 2003-2004 grant cycle.

This portion of the WEEB grant program is financed by the Forestry Account of the Conservation Fund. One hundred ninety thousand dollars may be awarded annually.

Funds are awarded only to public school districts for work that occurs at property registered with the Department of Natural Resources under the "community forest" program.

Learning, Experiences, & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) Updating School Forest Management Plans \$19,968

Funds were used to strengthen the school forest program by laying the groundwork for incentives for school districts to update their current school forest management plans regularly and to develop an

educational component to the plan. The project reviewed current state statutes, collected input from school forest coordinators and foresters, developed training programs and materials, and provided guidelines and recommendations to the WEEB regarding the newly created school forest grant category.

With the 2004-2005 grant cycle the WEEB acted on a LEAF recommendation and indicated preference would be given to proposals that develop an education plan that details how the use of the school forest and the district's K-12 environmental education plan are/will be integrated into the overall district curriculum.

When the school forest grant category grant cycle was launched, the WEEB received a total of 18 applications. During the 2005 grant cycle 34 proposals were received, with applicants requesting over \$376,000. It is anticipated the demand for these grant dollars will continue to increase.

Enhanced Networking and Communication

The WEEB has improved its own website via the expansion of the grant database and affiliated search capabilities.

Users may now search by

- geographic variables (e.g., zip code, city name, or CESA, assembly or senate district),
- grant category or size,
- target audience,
- administering agency type (e.g., school district, nature center, youth organization),
- grant priority.

or a combination of these variables.

The WEEB has begun discussions with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education regarding the need for a clearinghouse environmental education website. At this time, none of the groups have the financial or staff resources to independently launch and/or maintain such a site.

Central Purpose Two Development of Local Leaders

The WEEB has made on-going efforts to enhance the leadership and support provided environmental education in Wisconsin. Objectives within the "Develop Leadership in Environmental Education" portion of the WEEB's *EE 2005* strategic plan included:

- Support community environmental education leadership development projects.
- Increase the priority for environmental education in state agencies.

The WEEB funded several grant projects that worked to achieve these objectives. Two projects are highlighted here.

**Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
Governor’s High School Conference on the Environment
\$4,968**

During the WEEB’s very first grant cycle in 1990, a grant was given to the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) to plan and conduct a conference on the environment for high school students. Since then the WCEE has held a theme-based, primarily adult led conference for high school students.

In December 2002, WEEB members took an active role in evaluating the format of the conference and suggesting options for the future. A 2003 grant to the WCEE enabled the conference format to be changed to a tripartite format (content, leadership and action) in order to provide more student leadership and participation opportunities. In May 2003 the Governor gave his endorsement to this conference. The first “Governor’s Conference,” held in December 2003, had students focusing on water issues. The 2004 conference theme tied into the State’s “Year of Forestry.”



The 2005 conference “Power Up Wisconsin: Charging Ahead to an Energy Efficient Future” will take place on November 9, 2005. For more information about the conference see the conference website at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/youthconference/index.htm>

Since the grant was awarded, the waiting list to attend the conference has grown each year. Discussions regarding whether to change the conference location (in order to accommodate more students) have begun.

Since 2003 when the new conference format was initiated, additional event sponsors have included:

- Aldo Leopold Nature Center
- Alliant Energy Foundation
- Cascade Designs
- Center for Watershed Science and Education

- Earth Art Resources
- Focus on Energy
- Herbert H Kohl Charities
- Learning Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF)
- Madison Gas & Electric
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association
- The Nature Conservancy-Wisconsin Chapter
- Office of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle
- University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources
- University of Wisconsin-Stout
- Wausau Mosinee Paper
- WE Energies
- Weyerhaeuser Corporation
- Wisconsin 4-H
- Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters
- Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Groundwater Association
- Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
- Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
- Wisconsin Society of American Foresters

**Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve
Wisconsin NatureMapping: Train the Trainer
\$5,000**

Grant funds were used for statewide dissemination of the Wisconsin NatureMapping program – a citizen driven biodiversity program designed to monitor and map vertebrate wildlife species using interactive web-based GIS technology. Citizens report observations of wildlife to a statewide database which then may be used by resource professionals to manage our state’s natural resources. For more information see the NatureMapping website <http://www.wisnatmap.org/>

The first “Train the Trainer” workshop was held in February 2005 with all of the Department of Natural Resource Naturalist/ Interpreters. Sessions have been held at Kemp Field Station in Lake Tomahawk, Camp 5 Museum in Laona, and the Gordon Bubolz Nature Center in Appleton. Trained individuals have gone on to hold NatureMapping sessions for individuals in Stevens Point, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Black River Falls, Eau Claire, Madison and Phelps.



Central Purpose Three Curriculum Development, Dissemination and Implementation

Despite limited resources, the WEEB's efforts to promote quality environmental education opportunities for all segments of society (pre-schoolers to adult learners) in multiple settings (schools, nature centers, parks, workplaces, etc.) has continued to be the foundation for developing lifelong learners that are informed and involved citizens who will help ensure an ecologically and economically sustainable environment.

Objectives within the "Support the Implementation of Environmental Education in Schools" portion of the WEEB's *EE 2005* strategic plan included:

- Advocate for the full implementation of Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education and other content areas.
- Promote the use of 'EE Materials: Guidelines for Excellence' produced by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).
- Support the dissemination of quality environmental education materials to PK-15 classrooms.
- Assist in developing implementation plans for environmental education in schools.
- Encourage increased utilization of community resources and partnerships.

Additional objectives within the "Expand Non-Formal Environmental Education" portion of the WEEB's *EE 2005* strategic plan were:

- Promote the development of cooperative relationships between formal and non-formal educators aimed at achieving the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education.
- Expand and coordinate environmental education programs and activities at zoos, nature centers, museums, parks, and other non-formal settings.

The WEEB funded many proposals that involved development and/or implementation of environmental education curricula. Two projects are highlighted here.

University of Milwaukee Seeing Heat Flow: Integrating Thermal Imaging into Architectural Education \$20,000

This project was designed to make the understanding of heat flow in the environment intuitive and engaging to University of Milwaukee students. A better understanding of the thermal behavior of buildings in Wisconsin's



climate, which is harsher than many locations students tend to draw their design inspirations from, provided a framework for students to make the increasingly complex set of technical requirements for building envelope design more comprehensible.

Both undergraduate and graduate students used an infrared camera to gather thermal data and then discussed in class the thermal phenomena the images represented.

Portage Community School District Portage School Forest Education and Management Project \$19,991

Staff, students and community members within the Portage Community School District developed a 7th and 8th grade curricula that integrated forestry education



and hands-on learning activities in order to increase their knowledge, stewardship and appreciation for forestry specific environmental issues and concerns at the Portage High School Forest Number 2.

For example, one activity had students remove barbed wire from the forest. It is hoped future instances of trees with barbed wire through them can be avoided.

Central Purpose Four Professional Development

Environmental Education is a lifelong learning process. Programs should address the needs of all citizen ages, from all walks of life. The more environmentally literate Wisconsin citizens are, the better equipped they are to participate in public decisions affecting our working, living and recreational environments.

Objectives within the "Expand Non-Formal Environmental Education" portion of the WEEB's *EE 2005* strategic plan included:

- Provide professional development opportunities for non-formal educators.
- Encourage the development of environmental education opportunities in the workplace.

While many grants were provided for the professional development of teachers within our K-12 schools, several grant projects provided educational opportunities for other professionals.

Bad River Watershed Association Town Hall Project \$4,875

Funds were used to educate town officials, town road crews and taxpayers about the effects of road culverts on fish habitat and water quality. A visual display of correct and incorrect culvert installation was provided to 18 town halls and an informational brochure was produced.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council A Training Program for Forest Landowners to Improve Forestry Environmental Education \$16,652

This grant provided training to forest landowners who wished to visit their local elementary schools to teach about forestry. Where possible, lessons or activities were concluded with a field trip to the landowner's property where the students observed sustainable forestry management practices.

Evaluation and Literacy

Assessment is important to determine the environmental literacy of Wisconsin citizens. Wisconsin state statute states that the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students must be assessed (see 1989 Wisconsin Act 209). The 2001-2003 biennial report to the legislature indicated the WSAS/Knowledge and Skills tests at the fourth, eighth, and tenth grades provide a very incomplete picture of the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students and that it would be incorrect to suggest these tests are designed to assess environmental literacy.

The WEEB, through its request for proposal materials, has strongly encouraged evaluation and assessment work be undertaken. Unfortunately very few proposals of this type have been submitted. With the maximum award amount for general environmental education grants being just \$5,000 perhaps this is not surprising.

Some smaller scale projects have been awarded and the WEEB will continue its efforts to evaluate environmental literacy and the WEEB's ability to "promote environmental education in all segments of society."

University of Wisconsin Green Bay Evaluating the Use of Wisconsin's Environmental Education Standards \$5,000

This project is to determine the extent to which the standards are being implemented in rural schools in Northeastern Wisconsin and the ways in which any implementation is taking place. The project director believes the findings will also act as a needs assessment for future professional development activities for teachers.

Future Directions

The Board's next strategic plan (draft expected to be available for public comment in the fall of 2005) will provide the road map for environmental education for the next five years. This new map will need to take into account the changed circumstances and new opportunities such as:

- financial resources available to the WEEB (e.g., replacement of GPR dollars previously available for support of the general environmental education grant program with SEG fee money now supporting the school forest grant program)
- reorganizations and staff reductions within other state agencies (e.g., the Department of Natural Resources)
- establishment of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation
- retirements of environmental education leaders and need for professional development opportunities for the next generation of leaders



Grant Program

Since its creation in 1990, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's grant program has provided communities, schools, and organizations with funds to enhance environmental education programs.

Funds to support the grant program are provided by donations and state appropriations. For the 2003-2005 budget period, annual appropriations to the WEEB included \$400,000 from the forestry account of the conservation fund (of which up to 5% can be used toward administrative expenses) and a 5% assessment on state environmental fines levied and collected. In 2003, the Board received \$200,000 from the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (Focus on Energy funds) for an energy education program.

In 2003 there were 104 grant proposals submitted; 49 were funded. In 2004 there were 98 grant proposals submitted (the energy education grant program was no longer available); 49 were funded. Grant requests ranged from \$217 to \$20,000 (the maximum allowed).

Since 1997 when the WEEB was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the UW-System, the WEEB has distributed \$3.4 million to 345 projects. The funded projects have generated well beyond the 25 percent match required. In fact the matching funding from the 345 projects totals over \$3.3 million. During this time period 749 applications were received requesting over \$8.3 million. Obviously, only a portion of the applicants received funding.

The WEEB has received requests for proposals from every corner of the state and from virtually every type of organization, agency, or group that is eligible to receive funding. Each grant proposal submitted receives a rigorous review by volunteer committees. These volunteers represent the many entities which are interested

and/or involved in educating the citizens of Wisconsin about the environment. Each project is evaluated at three levels: 1) completeness and accuracy of program requirements, 2) technical review, and 3) merit review.

The technical review team evaluates each project proposal on the following criteria:

- adherence to the WEEB priorities
- budget accuracy and funding contributions
- thoroughness of application page and statement of need
- project goals, objectives, activities, and evaluations.

The merit review team then continues evaluation of eligible project proposals to determine overall quality and value of the project, ability to achieve goals, development of partnerships, use of existing resources, and promotion of community environmental education.

General Guidelines

Projects need to assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. The projects need to help people become environmentally aware, knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated to commit to work individually and collectively to defend, improve, and sustain the quality of the environment on behalf of present and future citizens.

Eligibility

WEEB grants are available to the following Wisconsin entities:

- Corporations (nonstock, nonprofit corporations organized under chapter 181 of state statutes)
- Public agencies (counties, cities, villages, towns, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation

districts, school districts and cooperative educational service agencies)

- State agencies, tribal governments, public colleges and universities
- Non-public education institutions (with some restrictions)

The following are NOT eligible:

- Individuals
- Private foundations
- Pervasively sectarian education institutions

Project Duration

Grants awarded as part of the 2003 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004. Grants awarded as part of the 2004 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005.

Funding Priorities for 2003 and 2004

The funded grants reflect the priorities that were in effect in 2003 and 2004. They included:

- A. Assist the WEEB in meeting statewide initiatives, including:
 1. assessment of student and teacher literacy on forestry-related topics/issues/concepts
 2. development of a mechanism to evaluate school forest management plans based on new criteria to include environmental education and forestry education components in the plan
 3. support for educational program(s) that train and equip non-industrial private forest owners to manage the forest on their properties in a sustainable manner
 4. development of a tree dissemination program for public/private K-12 schools that will help schools procure trees for Earth Day and Arbor Day events in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin Forestry and provide education resources on selection, planting and care
 5. distribution of technical assistance materials and workshops to assist school districts with the planning, design, and building of capital improvements such as shelters, bathrooms, trails, etc. at their school forest sites
- B. Promote broad community environmental education through the development and implementation of community environmental education projects. Projects should increase:
 1. the number and/or diversity of individuals and/or organizations involved in environmental education
 2. community knowledge of specific environmental

issues or problems

3. community participation in the resolution of environmental problems
- C. Make new use of existing resources and successful projects. This does not include support of the ongoing operations of a program. Existing resources and successful projects are defined as:
 1. interdisciplinary environmental curricula
 2. environmental education training for staff or group leaders
 3. environmental education programs developed for use on outdoor sites
 4. successful programs or WEEB projects developed by the applicant or another entity
 - D. Create new environmental education resources or programs.
 - E. Promote implementation of Wisconsin's model environmental education academic standards.

Funding priorities are reviewed and set annually during the Board's July planning meeting.

Preferred Characteristics

- Develop partnerships and cooperative ventures with organizations or agencies
- Reach large numbers of individuals
- Attain realistic and localized goals
- Show change in the actions or behaviors of the learners
- Provide opportunities for learners to become actively involved in examining and resolving environmental issues
- Provide learning experiences using sites outside of classroom/workplace
- Include activities that draw upon multiple intelligences of learners
- Include activities that emphasize the process of inquiry



Changes from Previous Years

When the 2001-2003 biennial budget was completed in October, it did not contain the \$200,000 annual GPR appropriation previously available to support the WEEB's general environmental education grant program since its inception in 1990. The budget did contain a \$400,000 annual SEG appropriation. Since prior legislation limited the use of these funds to forestry education projects, a new school forest category was created.

Due to the biennial budget alteration, at its July 2002 meeting, the WEEB voted to reduce the maximum award for proposals submitted within the general grant category from \$20,000 to \$5,000. This became effective with the 2003-2004 grant cycle and remains in effect. Funds for the general environmental education grant program are generated via donations and a five percent assessment on environmental fines.

Assistance for Applicants

Information on past projects can be searched through the Internet. Copies of funded proposals are available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. The "End of Year Summary" reports from grant recipients are also available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. Final reports from grant recipients may be viewed at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resource Library, UW-Stevens Point.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal (application form), contact:

***Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
110B College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
800 Reserve Street
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 346-3805
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb
weeb@uwsp.edu***



List of 2003 Grants

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. **\$20,000**

Madison

Hands-On Energy Action Team (H.E.A.T.)

To provide a link for the information students learn about energy in the classroom to the activities and practices in the home. Specifically funds for teacher training in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Energy Star Elementary Schools; energy-related class trips to Aldo Leopold Nature Center; and information sharing by students and families at community education programs, such as Earth Day and Maple Syrup Festival.

Bethlehem Community Pre-School **\$957**

Mosinee

The Presence and Power of Water

To develop four lessons relative to the presence and power of water: the water cycle, the waterwheel, papermaking, and energy use over time (intergenerational comparison of energy use in the present and past).

Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: UW-Extension **\$19,980**

Ashland

Northern Forest Herbarium: A Hands-On Resource for Forestry Education

For creation of a comprehensive herbarium collection of northern forest plants, using a process of color photography (rather than traditional specimen mounting techniques). Labels to include common, scientific, and Ojibwa names, forest type and collection data, including GPS and standard legal locations.

Cooperative Educational Service Agency #7 **\$12,719**

Seymour

Mastering the Use of Field Computers and GPS Systems Within a School Forest

To present two intensive workshops incorporating field technologies into outdoor coursework (Vernier LabPro's and Garmin GPS systems) in order to train middle and high school teachers to use these technologies with their students.

Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department **\$5,000**

Sturgeon Bay

Environmental Education Promotion through Environmental Learning Opportunities

To provide opportunities for high school students to participate in the Wisconsin Envirothon competition.



WISCONSIN ENVIROTHON

Edgar Public Schools **\$1,000**

Edgar

Edgar Staff Energy Workshop

To improve and increase energy education for the K-12 staff by providing a KEEP workshop and to purchase library materials.

Elcho School District **\$5,681**

**Elcho
School Forest Curriculum Enhancement**

To purchase curriculum materials, books, videos, and software to further aide the staff in developing and maintaining a quality school forest environmental education curriculum.

Elcho School District **\$925**

**Elcho
Four Seasons of the School Forest Newsletter**

To create a school forest newsletter to foster language arts skills in fifth and sixth grade students and serve as a means for community/school connections.

Evansville Community School District **\$18,089**

**Evansville
Energy: A Focus on our Future**

To create a model energy curriculum and community-based conservation philosophy via an Earth Day Energy Fair, home energy audits, web pages and displays, and teacher training opportunities.



**Friends of Hunt Hill
Audubon Sanctuary, Inc.** **\$3,900**

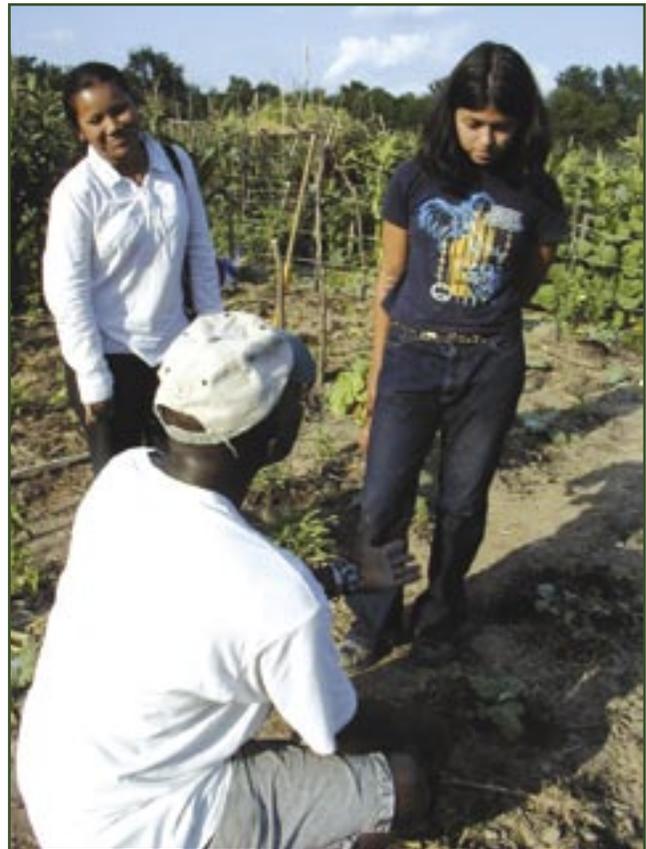
**Sarona
Outdoor Prairie Nature Trail Improvements**

To improve a trail's educational impact and accessibility for nature lovers of all ages and physical abilities in preparation for developing night outdoor program options.

Friends of Troy Gardens, Inc. **\$850**

**Madison
Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Areas
Restoration Youth Training Program**

To support eight low-income and/or minority youth of high school age as interns in sustainable farm management and natural areas restoration at Troy Gardens.



**Glacierland Resource Conservation
and Development Council** **\$993**

**Appleton
Energy Futures: The Fuel Cell**

To expose students to fuel cell technology via: use of the KEEP lesson entitled "Energy Futures," fuel cell car models, student created "futures" wheels and "scenario" writing and library displays.

**Golden Sands Resource Conservation
and Development Council** **\$16,652**

**Stevens Point
A Training Program for Forest Landowners to Improve
Forestry Environmental Education**

To provide training to forest landowners who wish to go into their local elementary schools to teach about forestry.

Where possible, lessons or activities will be concluded with a field trip to the landowner's property where the students can observe sustainable forestry management and other forestry practices.

Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation **\$5,000**

Milwaukee
Planning for Environmental Education on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

To conduct an educational needs assessment for future use of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.



Long Lake Preservation Association **\$720**

Birchwood
State of the Long Lake Watershed

To host a daylong conference focusing on water quality issues in the lake, fisheries and wildlife issues, the status of agriculture and other non-point sources of nutrients and sediments into the lake, and the relationship between the watershed's future health and the comprehensive planning process underway in the local and county governments that make up the watershed.

Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. **\$14,935**

Rhinelander
Professional Development with LEAF for Nature Centers

To provide professional development workshops for nature center staff. The LEAF (Learning, Experiences, and Activities in Forestry) program materials will be featured.

Madison Metropolitan School District **\$19,964**

Madison
A Research Connection: From the Classroom to Jackson School Forest

Professional development of teachers and naturalists to allow for the creation of environmental research projects that engage both teachers and students in stewardship projects involving both classroom study and on-site data collection at the school forest site.

Manitowoc School District **\$1,000**

Manitowoc
School Forest Interpretation and Information Center
For construction of an information center where students may post information including sighting and observation data resulting in a phenology calendar and map.

Milwaukee Public School District: **\$1,000**
Townsend Street School

Milwaukee
Creating a School Garden

To create a green space and gardens that will be planned, developed and maintained by grade 7 and 8 students. Students will explore plant growth and the interdependencies of life.

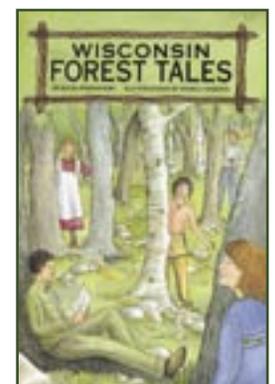
Monona Grove School District **\$14,622**

Cottage Grove
Walk on the Wild Side of Norman Vethe School Forest
To provide staff development in the use of standards-based instructional strategies and materials to maximize use of the forest by students.

Natural Resources **\$20,000**
Foundation of Wisconsin

Madison
Fourth Grade Level Book on Wisconsin Forest History

To produce a story book to teach 4th grade students about the history of Wisconsin's forests, the sustainable management of the 16-million acre regenerated forest in the state today and the social, ecological and economic importance of this valuable natural resource.



Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin **\$4,319**

Madison Green Schools

To print and distribute a Green School poster, support Green Schools workshops targeted at staff of urban and charter schools, and to develop web pages that highlight available resources and recognize outstanding Green Schools and their accomplishments.

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, Inc. **\$19,799**

Milwaukee Neighborhood House Nature Center Learning Station

To create an energy demonstration site consisting of solar panels, a small wind generator, storage batteries, measurement tools and teaching materials that will illustrate the production and consumption of energy.

Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program **\$5,000**

Ashland Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp

To compile a curriculum that shows at-risk youth a direct correlation between the Camp's conservation work (e.g., creating fire breaks, population surveying, pine plantation maintenance, waterfowl tagging, etc.) and academic environmental principles being taught (hydrology, glacial history, rock and mineral identification, and basic wildlife and forest management issues) in order to assist youth in gaining a broader understanding of their personal and collective impact on the environment.

Port Washington-Saukville School District **\$948**

Port Washington Water Analysis and Implementation of Improvement Plan

For students to perform water quality testing, information dissemination to area officials, and to work on plans to improve both water quality and usage patterns in the community.

Portage Community School District **\$19,991**

Portage Portage School Forest Education and Management Project

For staff, students and community members to increase their knowledge, stewardship and appreciation for forestry-specific environmental issues and concerns through: a) restoration, improvement, management, and educational promotion of the Portage High School Forest Number 2; and b) development of interdisciplinary environmental education curriculum that integrates forestry education and hands-on learning activities, specifically focusing on the 7th and 8th grade curricula.



School District of Oakfield **\$9,640**

Oakfield Into the Outdoors: An Oakfield Community Environmental Education Project

For elementary-age students to interview local senior citizens and residents who lived through the 1996 tornado that devastated Oakfield to document the changed local landscape and create a post-tornado land and tree restoration video.

School District of Prentice **\$997**

Tripoli Expanding Energy Education at Tripoli

To introduce students to energy concepts and give them hands-on experience with it through development of resources and curriculum based on the KEEP (K-12 Energy Education Program) Activity Guide.

Shell Lake School District **\$8,208****Shell Lake
Shell Lake School Forest
Management and Education Plan**

To update the school forest management plan, create a series of user-friendly maps, develop an educational plan that addresses both the Wisconsin Environmental Education Standards and priorities identified by teachers and the school forest committee, train teachers, and coordinate two school forest field days for students.

Spooner School District **\$1,000****Spooner
A Learning Park for Everyone**

For a service learning group to clean up a school district owned green space, research appropriate naturalizing flowers and grasses and then plant. (Project not completed.)

**St. Benedict Center: Benedictine
Life Foundation of Wisconsin** **\$5,000****Madison
Ecological Restoration Education Project**

To provide the resources for college interns to conduct research and present their findings on the impact of the prairie and wetland restoration on area plant diversity, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Stevens Point Area School District **\$18,473****Stevens Point
A Forest for the Future**

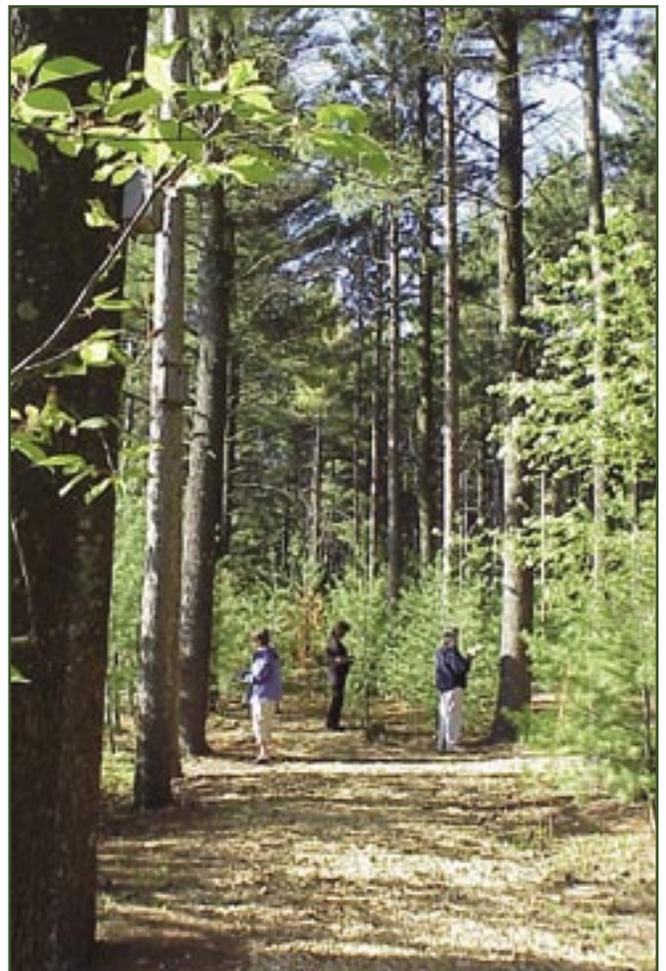
For the creation of study areas within the forest showing prairie and oak savannah restoration and sustainable forestry management practices, for staff training on forestry and biodiversity, and creation of lessons on these topics for students visiting the forest.

Tomahawk School District **\$20,000****Tomahawk
Achieving Curricular Environmental
Student Success (ACCESS)**

To provide access, via a boardwalk, to one of the school forests that is within walking distance and to develop lessons that engage students in real-life applications of data collection and analysis.

TransCenter for Youth, Inc. **\$13,140****Milwaukee
Environmental Leadership Corps**

For students to investigate four energy themes (we need energy, developing energy resources, effects of energy resource development and managing energy resource use); visit America's first solar village, wind turbines, the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, and a nuclear power plant; and develop a community garden that demonstrates wise energy use through xeriscaping and purchasing recycled and renewable energy products.





UW-Arboretum and McKay Center \$4,416

**Madison
The Young Naturalist Program:
Natural History for the Real World**

For high school age students to participate in experiential projects related to ecological research and restoration and provide these students with opportunities to teach younger students.

UW-Extension: Waukesha County \$4,679

**Waukesha
Environmentally Sound Practices for the Home Landscape and Garden**

To provide education on environmentally sound yard care practices to the two most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the city of Waukesha using materials appropriate to the urban setting and community members' (non native speakers) reading level.

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay \$17,130

**Green Bay
Development of a Pre-Service Teacher Education Manual and University Teaching Program**

To develop a pre-service teacher educational manual and university training program for the Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program.

University of Wisconsin-Platteville \$4,698

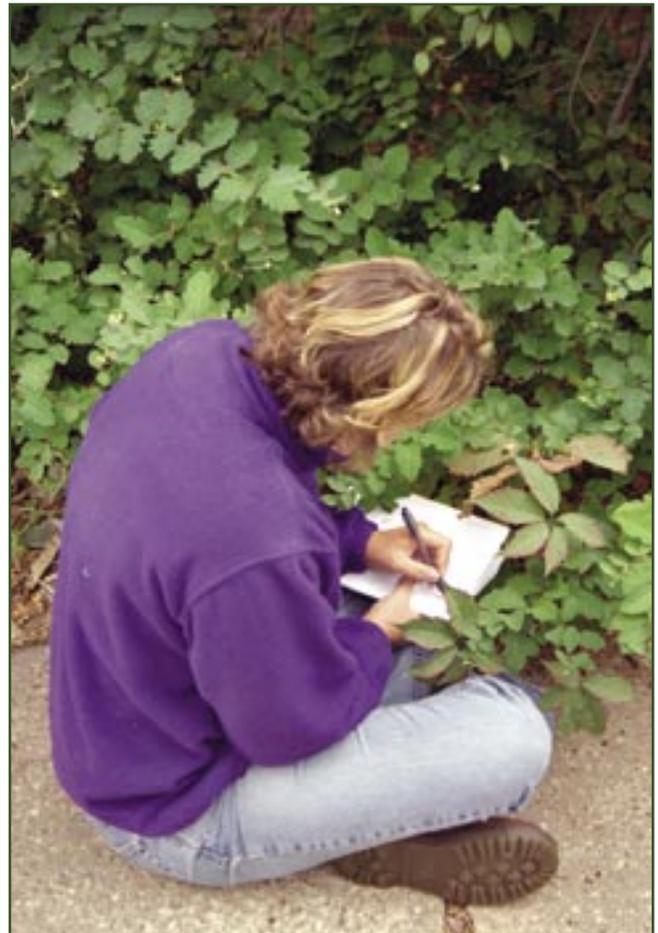
**Platteville
Enhancing Environmental Literacy in Preservice Teachers**

To enhance the development of environmental literacy in preservice teachers at the University of Wisconsin- Platteville via incorporation of a "senior research project" that requires seniors seeking a birth through early adolescent teaching licensure to develop curriculum and experiences for schools, organizations, and citizens of Wisconsin for implementation at the university's Pioneer Farm.

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$5,000
College of Natural Resources (CNR)**

**Stevens Point
Development and Evaluation
of a Nature Journaling Guide**

To develop, pilot test, and distribute a Nature Journaling Guide for use by upper elementary and middle school teachers and their students.





University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$17,302
Center for Land Use Education

Stevens Point
Forest Planning for Wisconsin's Future

To develop a multi-faceted educational program focused on forest planning and implementation. Specifically, to develop an on-line course, regional workshops around the state for local government officials, workshop exhibits, and magazine and newsletter articles.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$19,968
Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF)

Stevens Point
Updating School Forest Management Plans

To strengthen the school forest program by laying the groundwork for incentives for school districts to

update their current plans regularly and to include an educational component as part of the plan. Project will include evaluation of current statutes, collecting input from school forest coordinators and foresters, developing guidelines and recommendations, developing training programs and materials, and providing consulting.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$4,968
Wisconsin Center For Environmental Education (WCEE)

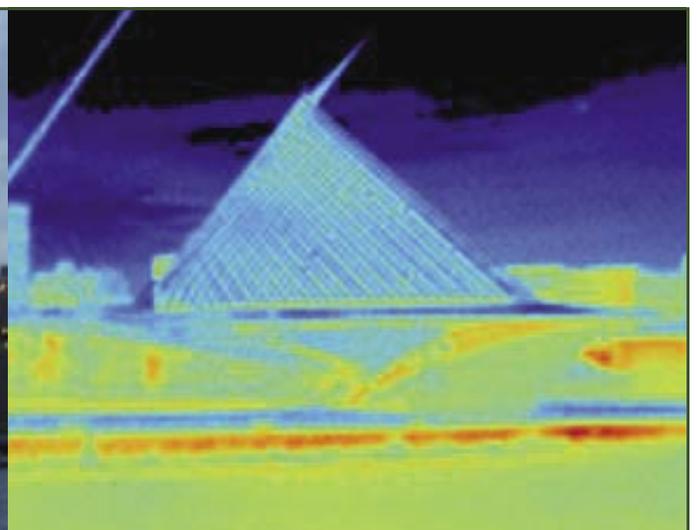
Stevens Point
The Wisconsin High School Conference on the Environment

For reorganization of a day-long annual event which focuses on a theme of environmental concern by not only addressing content, but by highlighting leadership and action opportunities for high school students.

UW-System: Board of Regents: \$20,000
UW-Milwaukee

Milwaukee
Seeing Heat Flow: Integrating Infrared Imaging Technology into Architectural Education

For introduction of infrared imaging equipment into the architectural technology curriculum. Students provided opportunities for advanced research into energy efficiency (thermal energy flow) and indoor air quality issues through case study research of existing residential and commercial structures, making recommendations to the building's owners in relation to both energy efficiency and indoor air quality.



Waupaca School District: \$983
Learning Center Elementary

Waupaca

Solar Energy: An Alternative Energy Source

To develop a conceptual framework to facilitate the development and implementation of energy education programming with an emphasis on alternative energy resources.

Westfield School District \$19,960

Coloma

Coloma Elementary Community-Linked School Forest Project

For site improvements, management plan development, and teacher/volunteer training to develop forest education activities at all grade levels for Coloma Elementary School on this site. This grant project will also serve as a pilot/model for the school district to develop two additional school forest sites within the Westfield School District.



Wild Rose School District \$995

Wild Rose

Solar Electricity

Enable eighth grade students to design and construct an electric powered race car and then race it on tracks operated with grid electricity, direct solar electricity, and indirect solar electricity making comparisons and conclusions.

Wisconsin Association for \$1,000
Environmental Education (WAE)

Stevens Point

WAE 2003 Fall Conference Keynote Speakers

In celebration of the "Year of Water" in Wisconsin, to further water-related environmental education by providing keynote speakers for a conference.

Wisconsin Association for \$12,486
Environmental Education (WAE)

Stevens Point

2004 WAE Conference: Growing Toward the Future: 100 Years of Forestry in Wisconsin

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of forestry in Wisconsin, to support keynotes, presentations, and workshops at a conference.

Wisconsin Woodland Owners \$7,882
Association Foundation (WVOA)

Stoughton

LEAF Field Activities

To assist teachers trained in the LEAF curriculum both in the classroom setting and with a field experience at Seno.





List of 2004 Grants

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc. \$5,000

Monona

Crossing Wisconsin's Glacial Divide: Development of an Educational Strategic Plan

To develop an educational strategic plan for a newly acquired programming site in Black Earth that is dotted with remnants of once common, now rare, natural communities in an unglaciated section of Dane County. Programs will increase the awareness of and knowledge about the unique characteristics of the unglaciated region, its importance to the state's history and unique connection to the people of Wisconsin, both historically and today.

Bad River Watershed Association \$4,875

Grand View

Town Hall Project

To educate town officials, town road crews and taxpayers about the effects of road culverts on fish habitat and water quality by placing a visual display of correct and incorrect culvert installation in 18 town halls and by producing a brochure.

Berlin Area Public Schools \$1,010

Berlin

Wisconsin Native Ecosystems Environmental Education Stations

To support a community project to construct a wetland area that will increase wildlife diversity and to train teachers in outdoor classroom environmental education teaching strategies.

Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: UW-Extension \$19,518

Ashland

Clay County Forestland Stewardship Site Interpretation: A Public Learning Lab

To develop and interpret 42 acres of high-graded woodland as a forestland stewardship demonstration, research, and teaching site for field learning experiences related to forestland management, sustainability, and stewardship, while promoting unity between diverse cultures, resource agencies, and educational entities.

Brillion Nature Center \$1,000

Brillion

Snake Hibernacula: Provision of Educational Signs and Materials

To fund two interpretive signs, one showing the underground design of a snake hibernaculum and the other illustrating the species of snakes which hibernate in them, and for educational program totes related to the snakes and winter adaptations.

Burlington Area School District \$19,858

Burlington

Our Community Forest

For staff development opportunities for K-8 teachers, design of interdisciplinary forest curriculum integrating LEAF activities, and promotion of the school forest to surrounding schools and the community through our forest website, local and regional newspapers, school newsletters and the state's school forest newspaper.

Central Wisconsin Wildlife Center (CWWC) \$15,398

**Custer
How Humans Affect Forest Life**

To create a traveling, interactive environmental education program designed to teach 5th and 6th grade students about how humans affect (positive and negative) forest life, specifically wildlife in the forest.

Clean Wisconsin, Inc. \$4,680

**Madison
Toxic Technology Tour for Wisconsin**

To develop and present a hands-on, traveling educational program on environmentally safe electronics recycling that will feature a computer dissection kit, educational materials, and downloadable power-point presentation designed for use by teachers and businesses.

Elcho School District \$19,009

**Elcho
Elcho School Forest: The Learning Loop**

For development of trails and learning stations at the school forest, field-based support materials, and a community day.



Friends of Beaver Creek Reserve \$5,000

**Fall Creek
Wisconsin NatureMapping: Train the Trainer**

For statewide dissemination of the Wisconsin NatureMapping program – a citizen driven biodiversity program designed to monitor and map vertebrate wildlife species using interactive web-based GIS technology that allows citizens to report observations of wildlife to a statewide database which may then be used by resource professionals to manage our state’s natural resources.

Friends of New Glarus Woods State Park \$872

**New Glarus
Discovery Backpack Project**

To purchase four sets of four thematic backpacks and outfit them with naturalist tools to learn about trees, birds of prey, insects, and birds of Wisconsin. Three sets will be donated to local libraries (New Glarus, Monticello and Blanchardville) to be included in the LinkCat system so they can be checked out by patrons anywhere in Southcentral Wisconsin. The fourth backpack will be placed at the contact station of the park.



Friends of Troy Gardens, Inc. \$5,000

**Madison
“Farm and Field” Youth Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Areas**

To provide education and skills building activities in a natural setting, and to expose youth to principles of sustainable food production and natural areas restoration and conservation.

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks \$5,000

**Rhineland
Go Wild With Wisconsin Wildcards!**

To create a theme-related activity guide that uses Wisconsin Wildcards to teach about habitats, endangered resources, alien invaders, and many other conservation and environmental education related topics more effectively and efficiently.



International Crane Foundation (ICF) \$4,607

**Baraboo
Evaluation and Expansion of the ICF Crane Count
Educational Program**

To evaluate ICF's Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count and refine its use as a vehicle for environmental education via updated and expanded programs, website and printed curriculum materials.

Kettle Moraine School District \$5,000

**Genesee Depot
Magee Prairie/Savanna Curriculum Guide**

To provide seven teachers the opportunity to review, write and collate prairie lessons into focused grade level curricula that guide student learning and have assessments correlated to grade level achievement targets, district and state standards.

Ladysmith-Hawkins School District \$1,000

**Ladysmith
Creation of Educational Management Plan for
Our School Forests**

To develop an educational management plan for the Ladysmith-Hawkins School Forests that will outline how these valuable resources will be actively used by all students and community members of this district.

Little Chute Area School District \$1,782

**Little Chute
Fox River Water Quality**

For student exploration and research of water quality variables, discussion of nonpoint source pollution, and publication of data and highlights of discussion on a class-created web site.

Little Chute Area School District \$994

**Little Chute
Fun With the Sun and Other Alternative Energy
Sources**

To introduce third grade students to basic energy concepts and allow them to participate in many hands-on KEEP activities and lessons which will assist them in becoming energy conscious individuals who will share their learning at an energy open house event.



Marinette School District \$1,000

**Marinette
Reduce, Recycle & Reuse: Families
Focused on the Environment**

For an experiential-based middle school learning project that provides students with basic information in three areas of environmental education related to family and consumer education and challenges students to promote responsible social actions via presentation of project information at civic organizations, church groups, cable channel broadcast and during a project report to the school board. One project had students make canvas bags and then distribute them at a nearby senior citizen center.

Merrill Area School District \$20,000

**Merrill
Timber Stand Study Plot 1958/Beaver Ecology**

To provide better access to timber stand study plots and measurement equipment so seventh grade students can compare the data they collect to data students collected 40 years ago and then attempt to explain reasons for changes in tree growth using past weather patterns, density of trees and natural growth of a given tree species. To provide better access for third graders to a beaver marsh and beaver pond and provide binoculars and other equipment for enhanced observation.



Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) \$5,000

**Custer
Wisconsin Electrathon:
Establishing a State-wide Program**

To conduct a series of planning meetings, develop a Board of Directors, and create a plan to develop a statewide Electrathon program and corresponding teacher training initiatives for Wisconsin. The Electrathon program and competition involves students in research, design, building, and racing electric vehicles as students learn about energy efficiency and conservation.

Milwaukee Public Schools \$5,000

**Milwaukee
Puente Environmental Leadership Corps (ELC):
Students as Environmental Entrepreneurs**

This three part project allows inner-city at-risk youth the opportunity to learn about the environment and urban environmental issues via after-school fieldtrips and projects; develop a product (an environmental musical CD on the Sparkle Dog record label); and teach younger students by visits to various Milwaukee and Madison elementary schools to share what the Corps has done.

Neenah Public Schools \$1,000

**Neenah
Together We Grow: Spring Road
Elementary Outdoor Classroom**

To encourage a more environmentally aware student and citizen through the development of an onsite natural plant and wildlife area (a prairie and wildflower section, a butterfly garden, and a bird sanctuary) that offers students opportunities to learn in more authentic and meaningful ways.

Neville Public Museum of Brown County \$4,467

**Green Bay
Hunters of the Sky Curriculum Development**

To develop a new environmental education curriculum for the exhibition "Hunters of the Sky," a traveling exhibit about birds of prey produced by the Science Museum of Minnesota. The curriculum meets state academic standards and incorporates suggested lessons from Project Wet, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree. An activity guide is available to enhance the pre/post visit experiences of all teachers bringing their classes to this exhibit.

Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Area Schools \$1,686

**Ontario
Environmental Education Preparation for Pre-K
through 12 Teachers**

For a core group of staff to become educated about prairie planting and wildlife (butterfly) attraction, plan the environmental education implementation phase for their 157 students, share the information with all school staff, and develop continuation prospects.



Pewaukee School District **\$2,598****Pewaukee
Enhancing Environmental Education Through the Use
of the Pewaukee Prairie**

For teachers in grades four through six, including special area teachers (e.g. Spanish, art, music, and physical education) and special education teachers, to participate in a half day in-service designed to address EE standards as well as ways to incorporate the use of the prairie into all academic areas. A Prairie Resource Guide will also be developed with activities and lessons.

Port Edwards Schools **\$13,636****Port Edwards
We Have a School Forest? Increasing the Educational
Utilization of the Port Edwards School Forest**

This project will provide: 1) an outdoor classroom for the school district that teachers from all grade levels and content areas will utilize in facilitating integration of environmental education into our existing curriculum; 2) instructional aides and materials for forestry management, sustainable forestry and educational outdoor activities; 3) training of teachers in the district to increase awareness of the forest facility and specific content ideas that can be incorporated into the lessons based on forestry education; 4) development of a strategic plan identifying long-term environmental education resources needed by both the school district and residents.

Prairie FEASST **\$4,620**
**(Families Enhancing Access to
Shared Sustainable Subsistence Traditions)****Springbrook
Prairie, Pines and People: Developing Curricula about
Local Biodiversity Change**

Middle and high school biology teachers and environmental specialists will attend a workshop to learn about the history of biodiversity changes locally and to develop curricular materials and information packets that can be used in teaching students and educating the public. Thereafter, teachers and specialists will work with students to seed, germinate, and plant native prairie species of forbs and grasses at three demonstration sites (Hayward, Springbrook, Spooner) along a 30 mile railroad corridor. Seeds will be planted in the fall; over the winter students will learn about the effects of climate, fire, logging, farming and recreation during the past 500 years upon the diversity of native species and prairie, savanna, woodland and wetland ecologies; and in the spring students will plant germinated seedlings at the

three demonstration sites. In the late spring students will provide a guided historical tour to community members and visitors on the first Annual Wildflower Railway Tour using what they and their teachers have learned.

School District of Grantsburg **\$5,000****Grantsburg
Freshwater Mussels: Endangered
Species in Our Backyard**

To increase environmental awareness about both the reasons mussels are endangered as well as what citizens can do to improve local conditions for mussels. High school students will share citizen science research projects with other students, local agencies, lake associations, and municipalities. A cross-curricular group of 15-20 hands-on, inquiry-based activities that are appropriate for preK-12 students to raise awareness about conservation issues facing mussels and other river creatures will be developed.

**School District of Phillips** **\$20,000****Phillips
School Forest Program Development**

To develop a management policy for the five school forest parcels whose plans were last updated between 19 and 27 years ago, identifying one parcel for focused development by the district, and to design and develop an outdoor classroom and curriculum for application on the chosen site.

St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department **\$5,000**

Baldwin Information and Education Activities Specialist

To provide staff person to facilitate environmental education forums including classroom presentations, 15 Conservation Field Days, 18 Stream Ecology Workshops, and installation of a shoreland restoration area that will be used for teaching purposes for both young students and adults.

The Park People of Milwaukee County **\$19,999**

Milwaukee Sustainable Forest Management through Invasive Plant Education

To develop a curriculum and activity guide to accompany the new *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control*, due to be published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 2004. The curriculum and activity guide will draw upon resources already developed and will include lesson plans for ages K-adult in formal and non-formal educational settings. Lessons designed for students K-12 will be correlated to Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards.

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay **\$5,000**

Green Bay Evaluating the Use of Wisconsin's Environmental Education Standards

To determine the extent to which Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education are being implemented in rural schools in Northeastern Wisconsin and the ways in which implementation is taking place. The findings from the study will act as base-line information concerning the ways in which environmental education efforts are enhancing the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and environmental ethic of secondary students in Northeastern Wisconsin. The findings will also act as a needs assessment for future professional development activities that can develop secondary science teachers' knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the teaching and learning of environmental education issues and problems.

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh **\$4,970**

Oshkosh Gauging the Health of the Fox River Watershed

For curriculum development for a one-day workshop tailored to middle and high school students, focusing on quantitative and graphing skills as students collect water

quality data. Data that is collected will be displayed on a website that is continually updated and easily accessible to the general community.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Center for Land Use Education **\$10,662**

Stevens Point Forest Planning for Wisconsin's Future-Phase II

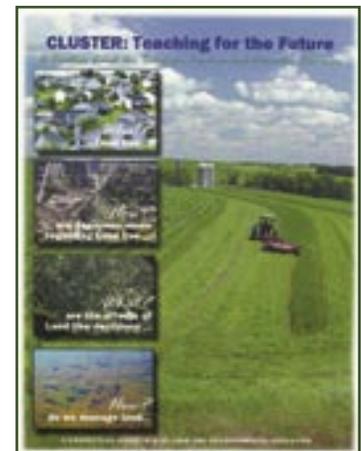
To target UW Extension Basin Educators and Community, Natural Resource, and Economic Development educators at their existing training workshops to provide a two hour training session that will update them on the state of Wisconsin's forests and describe how planning can benefit forests, how the planning process works, and how they can help their own communities consider forests when they plan.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Center for Land Use Education **\$5,000**

Stevens Point

Creative Land Use Series for Teachers and Educator Resources, CLUSTER

To create a suggested scope and sequence linking land use concepts with established social studies standards.



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry (LEAF) **\$19,160**

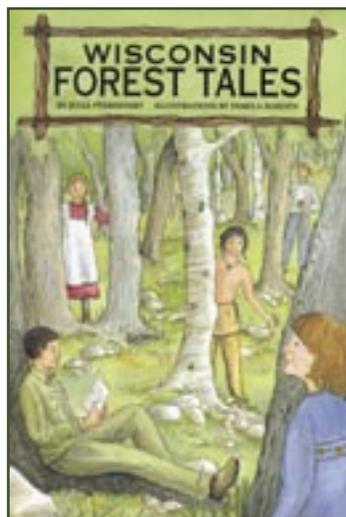
Stevens Point School Forest Grant Writing

For support of two 3-day school forest grant writing workshops. Each workshop will include 20 teachers from 10 school districts across the state that have registered school forests and have not received WEEB grants. One workshop will be offered in fall of 2004, the other in fall 2005. The workshops will provide grant-writing skills and resources as well as time to develop and peer review school forest grants.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$10,933
Learning Experiences and Activities
in Forestry (LEAF)

Stevens Point
Teacher's Guide for
Connecting Forest
History Book to
the Fourth Grade
Classroom

To create a teacher's guide containing connections to the LEAF fourth grade unit, activities/assessments, and resources for each chapter of the Wisconsin Forest Tales book. Activities will be built around skills and processes identified in the visual arts, language arts, social studies, science, math, and environmental education Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$19,847
Wisconsin Center For Environmental
Education (WCEE)

Stevens Point
Equipping Foresters to Present in the K-12 Classroom

To improve the effectiveness of professional foresters' presentations to K-12 classrooms through the development and evaluation of scripted programs, materials, and training that are linked to the concepts identified in the LEAF Conceptual Framework. Six age-specific programs will be developed based on the LEAF Classroom Lesson Units.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$5,000
Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)

Stevens Point
Energy Education at Home: Reaching Out to
Wisconsin's Homeschooling Population

Through a year of exploration with homeschooling educators, KEEP will develop a workshop specifically geared and marketed for this population and provide resources for these students.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$1,000
Helen R. Godfrey University
Child Learning and Care Center

Stevens Point
Outdoor Education: Wisconsin's Birds and Butterflies
Our Backyard Friends

Children ages 6 months to 10 years and teachers will plant and tend a butterfly garden and make birdhouses, feeders, and baths. This integrated hands-on process-oriented inside/outside lab will provide the children with a curiosity that not only includes positive activities showing respect for outdoor life, but also will include art, science, dramatic play, literature, and the use of visual learning, which also encourages language development.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: \$1,000
Helen R. Godfrey University
Child Learning and Care Center

Stevens Point
Environmental Education: Training the
Early Childhood Teacher

To train up to 50 Early Childhood Educators via a 2 1/2 hour workshop to use the Wisconsin's Project Learning Tree (PLT) Early Childhood Activity Guide.

Waukesha School District \$3,368

Waukesha
Land Use Lapham Peak Experience

A team of fourth grade teachers will meet for 2.5 days to evaluate and revise the current fourth grade infused Environmental Education unit Land Use-Lapham Peak



Experience. Changes will be shared with approximately 40 other fourth grade teachers in the district at a half-day inservice. The main goals will be to review the infusion process and to align this unit more closely with Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards.

West Salem School District \$4,933

**West Salem
At Home in the Canopy**

To improve the second grade program at the West Salem Outdoor Education Center (OEC) through the development of more age-appropriate activities. Specifically, to construct a platform in the canopy of a 150-year-old White Pine so students can physically visit each level as they study the layers of the forest while participating in lessons staff have modified/created after attending an inservice course.



Wisconsin Conservation Voters Institute, Inc. \$5,000

**Waunakee
Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book 2005-2006
Coalition Coordination**

To facilitate relationship building and knowledge sharing as conservation and political leaders build a coalition to arrive at policy solutions for natural resource issues. Ultimately, the project will create a Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book 2005-2006, a booklet of background information and policy solutions for the most important natural resource issues in Wisconsin, for use by Wisconsin's advocacy community, members of the media, and legislators.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$14,347

**Madison
Forestry Centennial Supplement to
"Wisconsin Natural Resources" Magazine**

To produce a sophisticated eight-page, four-color, well-written and beautifully photographed insert to the October issue of the DNR's Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine that would present the past, present, and future importance of Wisconsin's forestry resources.

**Wisconsin Family Forests: \$9,852
Wisconsin Rapids**

**Wisconsin Rapids
Sustainable Forestry in Your Neighborhood**

To encourage woodland owners to become active managers of their lands and to understand and apply the concepts of sustainable forestry through the creation and distribution of a brochure that will address the reasons people own woodlands. By focusing on their reasons for owning woodlands, participants will be shown that managing land sustainably will help them achieve their goals.

**Wisconsin Forest Resources \$19,820
Education Alliance (WFREA)**

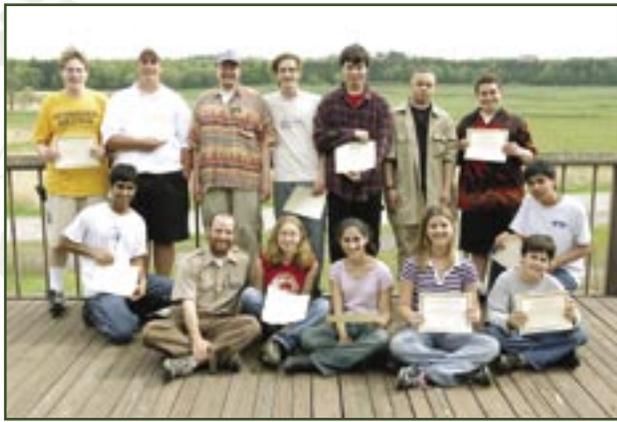
**Rhineland
Forest Certification Targeting Consumers**

To develop a five-minute vignette about forest certification that targets consumers. The vignette will be aired on the Wisconsin Public Television and Milwaukee Public Television networks and utilized by the LEAF Adjunct Faculty to enhance their knowledge about forest certification.

Woodland Dunes Nature Center \$3,998

**Manitowoc
Woodland Dunes Summer Program**

For funding of a two-month summer educator/intern to assist in providing educational programs to groups and nature center visitors, and to assist in the development of new forestry/forest ecology and urban forestry programs to be offered to schools and the public.



Grant Application Statistics

2003

Total Dollars Requested \$1,110,374
 Average Request \$10,676

Proposals Received 104

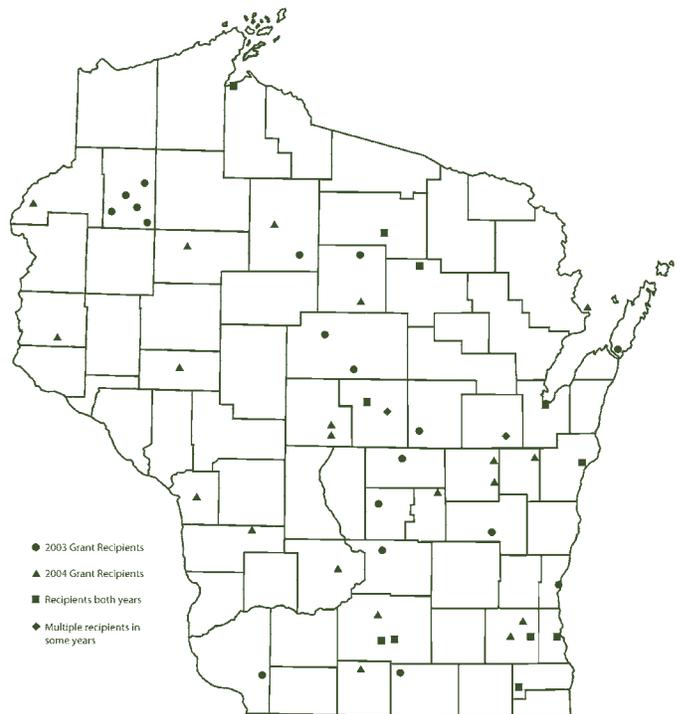
Projects Funded		Dollar Value Funded
General	17	\$57,498*
Forestry	9	\$138,845
School Forest	11	\$141,543**
Energy	12	\$114,083

2004

Total Dollars Requested \$816,109***
 Average Request \$8,327

Proposals Received 98

Projects Funded		Dollar Value Funded
General	31	\$113,655*
Forestry	11	\$160,408
School Forest	7	\$98,436



*The maximum award for the general category was reduced from its historical level of \$20,000 to \$5,000 due to the elimination of GPR funding sources within the state budget. The general category is now solely funded via donations and a 5% surcharge on environmental fines. Thus, the amount available for funding varies from year to year.

**The addition of \$200,000 in SEG funds from the forestry account of the conservation fund allowed for the creation of the school forest grant category.

***The passage of the 2003-2005 biennial budget resulted in the loss of Focus on Energy funds which had supported a \$180,000 energy education grant program.

Historical Record of All Projects Funded Since 1990

Type of Agency	Total Value Funded
Business/Industry	\$81,293
CESA	\$69,943
Cooperative Extension	\$137,124
Lake District	\$63,802
Municipal Government	\$192,269
Nonprofit	\$1,761,521
Press/Media	\$11,900
Schools	\$1,606,213
State Agency	\$255,286
Tribal Government	\$40,650
University/College	\$759,598



Development Program

One of the duties for the WEEB, as directed by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299, is to be a catalyst for seeking private funds in support of the grant program.

In the spring of 1999, the WEEB created the "Environmental Education Fund." The EE Fund is comprised of an immediate dispersal account and an endowment account. Contributions to the immediate dispersal account are withdrawn each April, and the funds are used to supplement the annual general grant program. Contributions to the endowment account remain in the fund, while the interest generated is used to supplement the annual grant program. The current balance of the immediate dispersal account is \$0. The current balance of the endowment account is \$6,443.

The elimination of the \$200,000 annual general public revenue appropriation in 2001 has severely limited the WEEB's ability to carry out its mission. While forestry education programs have blossomed, other initiatives have languished. The WEEB has undertaken a number of initiatives to address this loss.

A "State Funding Task Force" was established. The goal is to pursue all possible revenue appropriation sources to help return the general environmental education grant program to its historical level.

Knowing this would be a difficult task, a "Private Funding Task Force" was also established. After some exploratory solicitations that afforded very limited success, it became evident the solicitation of private funds without a directly associated nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation as the depository for the funds would be difficult.

In October 2004 the Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation, a nonstock nonprofit corporation was registered with the state of Wisconsin. In April 2005

the Foundation received approval of its application to the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization. The WEEF Board of Directors now has a multi-faceted plan for fund raising to supplement the WEEB's general environmental education grant program.

Contributors (Summer 2003-Summer 2005)

\$1,000 or more

David Wisnefske

\$500 - \$999

Randy Champeau

\$100-\$499

Janet Brandt

Ginny Carlton

Robin Harris

James Gibson

William Neuhaus

\$25-\$99

Anonymous

Nalani McCutcheon

Vance Rayburn

Dan Sivek

Mary Swifka and Dean Sauers

As citizens of this state we all have a stake in preserving and enhancing our environmental heritage. We invite your input as we promote learning opportunities for our citizens so that everyone, youngest to oldest, will gain more knowledge and skill to ensure an even more positive legacy for our environment. Come lend a hand, each individual's efforts do make a difference!

Grant Reviewers

Thank You Volunteer Grant Proposal Reviewers for Making EE Work for Wisconsin

Ackerstein, Dan Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation	2003, 2004	Fannucchi, Genny DNR: Forestry Bureau	2003, 2004, 2005
Alvarez-Lewis, Christina	2003	Flitter, Michael PKI International	2003
Ashaffenburg, Katherine Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation	2005	Frosh, Deb Riverland Conservancy	2003, 2004
Atkinson, Nelli UW-Stevens Point	2005	Gavin, Leslie Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation	2005
Bauer-Armstrong, Cheryl UW Madison Arboretum	2005	Gilbert, Sarah Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)	2005
Bircher, Chip Wisconsin Public Service	2003, 2004	Gilson-Pierce, Gail Trees for Tomorrow	2003, 2004, 2005
Bishop, Maggie Trees for Tomorrow	2004	Halvorson, Jim DNR: Northern Region Headquarters	2004
Bohanan, Robert UW-Madison: Center for Biology Education	2003, 2004, 2005	Harvey, Lucy Retired	2005
Bowman, Joe	2003	Higgins, Jeremy National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP)	2003
Brodeen, Patty Manitowoc Public School District	2005	Johncock, Kendra Aurora University: George Williams College: Lake Geneva Campus	2003
Carlton, Ginny Wisconsin Environmental Education Board	2003, 2004, 2005	Johnson, Michael LaCrosse School District	2004
Conde, Heidi DNR: Woodruff	2005	Jordan, Jay DNR: Dunn County Forester	2003, 2005
Connors James, Krista UW-Stout	2003	Kinzel, Steve UW-Extension: 4H	2003
Dahl, Lindsay WI K-12 Energy Education Program	2005	Klippel, Judy DNR: Havenwoods Environmental Education Center	2003, 2004, 2005
Dostal, Karen Stevens Point Area School District	2004, 2005	Koziel, Rick Beaver Creek Reserve	2003, 2004, 2005
Elmhorst, Katie Girl Scouts of America: Indian Waters Council	2003	Krahn-Tulman, Kathy CESA 10	2005
Ermer, Susan UWSP: Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education	2004	Kuntz, Kathy Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation	2003

Lane, Jennie WI K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)	2003, 2005	Vanden Elzen, Tom DNR: Oshkosh Service Center	2004
Lapidakis, Jerry Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association	2003	Wade, Suzanne UW-Extension: Jefferson City	2005
Lochner, Paul DNR: Portage County Forester	2003	Wearne-Neurohr, Deb Portage Community School District	2003, 2005
Marinac, Pat Appleton Area School District	2003, 2004, 2005	Whalley, Thomas Retired, Tri-County Schools	2004
Mattano, Rebecca UW-Stevens Point	2005	Wiener, Rob Trees for Tomorrow	2003, 2005
Meunier, Mary DOA: Division of Energy	2003	Wise, Karen Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District	2003
Minniear, Andrea Energy Center of Wisconsin	2003	Workman, Amy UW Extension: Milwaukee County	2005
Morgan, Carrie DNR: Communication and Education	2005	Wurl, Pete Wisconsin Public Service	2003, 2004, 2005
Nania, Jeff Wisconsin Waterfowl Association	2004	Yockers, Dennis UWSP: Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education	2003
Nye, Casey Stevens Point Area School District	2004, 2005	Zagrzebski, Kelly Wisconsin Public Service	2003
Petesich, Mary Beth UW-Oshkosh	2004	Zbleski, Bobbi UWSP: Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education	2003
Sandstrom, Steve Northland College	2004		
Smith, Barbara DOA: Division of Energy	2003		
Solin, Jeremy Learning Experiences Activities in Forestry (LEAF)	2004, 2005		
Spalding, Julie Appleton Area School District	2004		
Stampfl, Randy DNR: Horicon	2004		
Sterling, Clay Midwest Renewable Energy Association	2003, 2004, 2005		
Tang, Chin Chun Center for Land Use Education	2003, 2004, 2005		
Thompson, Barbara West Salem School District	2003, 2004, 2005		



Plant images included throughout this report are green tones of images created as part of the Northern Forest Digital Herbarium project.

**Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
110B College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481**



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